CLAIMS

Now, therefore, the following is claimed:

1. An automatic image enhancement system, comprising:

memory for storing digital data that defines a graphical image;

a face detector configured to analyze said digital data and to automatically identify facial data within said digital data stored in said memory; and

an image enhancer configured to analyze said facial data identified by said face detector and to automatically identify a portion of said facial data that defines a particular facial feature, said image enhancer further configured to automatically manipulate said portion for enhancing an appearance of said facial feature within said graphical image.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein said system further comprises an input device configured to receive an input, wherein said image enhancer is further configured to select said facial feature based on said input.

3. The system of claim 1, wherein said image enhancer manipulates said portions by blending color values associated with said portion.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein said image enhancer, by manipulating said portion, blurs said appearance of said facial feature.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein said image enhancer, by manipulating said portion, sharpens said appearance of said facial feature.

6. The system of claim 1, wherein said image enhancer, by manipulating said portion, changes a color of said facial feature.

7. The system of claim 1, wherein said system includes an image capturing device configured to receive an image of a scene and to produce said digital data based on said image received by said image capturing device.

8. The system of claim 7, wherein said image capturing device includes a lens for receiving said image and an image converter for producing said digital data based on said image.

9. An automatic image enhancement system, comprising:

means for storing digital data that defines a graphical image;

face detecting means for analyzing said digital data and for automatically identifying facial data within said digital data stored in said storing means; and

image enhancing means for analyzing said facial data identified by said face detecting means, for automatically identifying a portion of said facial data that defines a particular facial feature, and for automatically manipulating said portion to enhance an appearance of said facial feature within said graphical image.

10. A method for enhancing graphical images, comprising the steps of:

receiving digital data defining a graphical image;

automatically detecting facial data within said digital data;

searching said facial data for data that defines a particular facial feature;

automatically identifying, based on said searching step, a set of data defining said particular facial feature; and

manipulating said set of data in response to said identifying step.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein said manipulating step includes the step of blending color values within said set of data with other color values within said facial data.

12. The method of claim 10, further comprising the steps of:

receiving an input; and

selecting said particular facial feature based on said input,

wherein said searching step is based on said selecting step.

13. The method of claim 10, wherein said manipulating step causes a blurring of an appearance of said particular facial feature when said particular facial feature is displayed.

14. The method of claim 10, wherein said manipulating step causes a sharpening of an appearance of said particular facial feature when said particular facial feature is displayed.

~~15. The method of claim 10, wherein said manipulating step affects a color~~ of said particular facial feature when said particular facial feature is displayed.

16. The method of claim 10, further comprising the steps of:

capturing an image of a scene; and

defining said digital data based on said capturing step.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein said capturing step includes the steps of: receiving light via a lens; and

converting said light into said digital ~~data received in~~ said receiving step.